



Consumer Services Department

Tel: (305) 375-1250



Fax: (305) 372-6308



E-mail: consumer@miamidade.gov

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
140 WEST FLAGLER STREET
SUITE 902
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33130-1561

CSD *News Release*

Thursday, October 24, 2002

Has your vehicle been 'booted'? Call the Consumer Services Department

Code Enforcement Officers from Miami-Dade County Consumer Services Department are investigating complaints of 'Booting' of motor vehicles in the Miami Lakes area.

'Booting,' the method of immobilizing vehicles by attaching a metal clamp to one of the wheels is used as an alternative to towing when vehicles are parked illegally on private property.

Chapter 30 of the Miami-Dade County Code which deals with 'Towing and Booting' prescribes that 'Booting' companies as well as their employees who attach the boot must be licensed by the Consumer Services Department.

The law encompasses several consumer protection regulations. These include a requirement that the company carries liability insurance of at least \$25,000 to cover damage to vehicles, that it has an office which is open to the public between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday to Friday with at least one person on duty and that it has telephone service which is operational 24 hours a day. The maximum fee that can be charged to remove a boot is \$65 in most areas of the County.

Violation of these regulations can result in a civil penalty of up to \$500 for each offense.

“These regulations are designed to protect persons whose vehicles have been booted,” says Consumer Advocate, Leonard Elias. He notes that there is currently no company registered with CSD to perform booting in Miami-Dade County.

Any motorist who has had his or her car booted should call the Miami-Dade County Consumer Hotline at 305 375-3677.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patrick Smikle, Public Information Officer; (305) 375-5745;

Email: smikle@miamidade.gov

Leonard Elias, Consumer Advocate; (305) 375-4199; Email: le28@miamidade.gov

Mario Goderich; Divisional Director, Consumer Protection; (305) 375-4193, Email: mg3836@miamidade.gov

Cathy Grimes Peel, CSD Deputy Director, (305) 375-4666; Email: cpeel@miamidade.gov

The Miami Dade Consumer Services Department is an agency of Miami-Dade County government that protects consumers through complaint mediation, business regulation, and consumer education. The Department operates the Consumer Hotline (305) 375-3677, a central telephone number for consumer complaints and information.